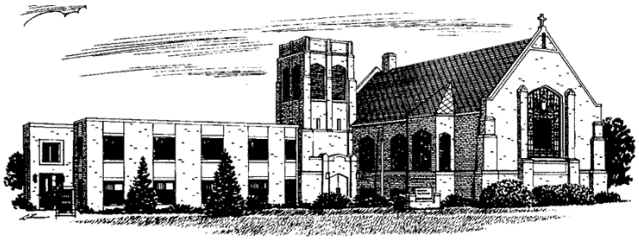

SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

April 2019

From Pastor-----

Kyrie, Eleison. Christe, Eleison. Kyrie, Eleison.
These are the words that have begun our liturgy this Lenten season. A transliteration of the Greek, the words mean Lord, Have Mercy. Christ Have Mercy. Lord, Have Mercy.

(Continued on page 2)

Wednesday Evenings
The Poetry of Lent featuring works by Mary Oliver
April 3 & 10
Soup Supper 6:00 PM
Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 PM

Holy Week Worship

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, April 14
Holy Communion – 8:30 and 11:00 AM
Procession with Palms

Maundy Thursday, April 18
Holy Communion - 12:15 PM and 7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 19
Adoration of the Cross - 12:15 PM and 7:00 PM

Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 20
Holy Communion - 7:00 PM

Easter, The Resurrection of our Lord, Sunday, April 21
Holy Communion – 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Easter Breakfast between services;
Easter Egg Hunt and Craft at 10:00 AM as provided by the Learning Committee

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
tbd, Financial Secretary
Emily Gaul, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Continued from page 1 – From Pastor

It is a prayer for God's mercy to fill the church and the world. It sets the tone for what is to come - not only in worship, but in the church year, and in life. As we enter into these last weeks of Lent, a season of reflection and preparation for the Easter festival, and as we ponder all that is going on around us in our homes and in the world, we long for God's mercy. We long for the day when we can again shout aloud our "Alleluias" knowing that the power of death has been defeated and the promise of the resurrection is always near, giving us life now and for eternity.

Pastor Joan

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST -

Easter Sunday breakfast will be between services from 9:30 until 10:45 a.m. Breakfast casseroles, pastries, fruit, juice and coffee will be served. Come early for the best selection and time to enjoy one another's company.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – **California**

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Financial Secretary: tbd
Call for office for more information
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in April 2019

1- Shadden Talbert-Gulley
3 - Brian Culverhouse
4 – Shawn de la Foret
Whitney (Johnson) Burk
Elizabeth Gaspari
8 - Janet Larson
11 - Alaina Bradley
13 - Marilyn Lucy
14 - Lorelei Gorman
Brandon Borr
15 - Carleen Knauf
Corinne Ondraka
19 - Robert Kynast
Debra Adams-Hurst
21 - Fritz Knauf
Andy Wedde
23 – Juliet Jacob
25 - C'Ella Mae Williams
Clem Brueck
Gayle Peterson
26 - Tom Siewert
27 - Linda Pater
28 - Brooke Henderson
Michael Breyen

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round." Please submit any corrections to the church office at 983-1273. Thanks.

WITH JOY

With joy we welcome Finnegan O'Connor Gray-Roll into the community of faith at Saron through Holy Baptism on February 24th. Finnegan is the son of Marcus Roll and Beth Gray-Roll. His sponsors were Catherine Gray and John Skinner.

The Fortify & Fly Continuation Committee had their 1st official meeting in March! The Continuation Committee is in charge of keeping the congregation informed about all things Fortify & Fly for the next 3 years. One of ours tasks is providing quarterly updates in the form of a letter with your giving statement. Look for the first letter in April!

We will also be providing an updated collection total in each monthly newsletter. As of the end of February, we had collected $77,910 of the $154,005 pledged for 2019 (3 year pledge total is $371,165). An "uplifting" visual representation of our collection progress will be going up in the Narthex soon.

Lastly, now that Spring has arrived, the vital work on the roof of the education wing is set to begin the last week of March. The imminent arrival of a dumpster has never been so exciting!

Many of you were able to see Project Fortify and Fly's video, featuring our choir, youth, and Saron leaders speaking of the ministry and vision of Saron. If you would like to watch the video again, or have a friend watch it, the link can be found at *https://youtu.be/d1UGzGbPXLg* or you can search on "Fortify & Fly" in YouTube.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday, April 7 – Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Sunday, April 14 –
Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday
Luke 19:28-40 Procession with Palms
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14 — 23:56

Thurs, Apr. 18 – Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, Apr. 19 –
Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42

Sunday, April 21 -
Resurrection of Our Lord/ Easter Day
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 28
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Nursery News

Providing a safe place for our youngest members takes volunteers willing to be in the nursery during service. We do have a nice group and we are so very thankful to them. Currently the rotation for late service is once every ten Sundays. Please consider joining us, we can and do work with a variety of availability schedules. Contact Marilyn Lucy with any questions or to add your name to the list.

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR
The 2019 flower calendar is posted. Cost: $25.00/vase. This is an opportunity for you to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. The church orders the flowers (unless you indicate otherwise) and you can take the flowers home after 2nd service.

Learning
book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Save the date! VBS is scheduled at Saron for the evenings of August 5-8. Exciting things are being planned!

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP
This group enjoys Bible study, conversation, and sharing a meal together. We typically meet on the third Sunday of each month, rotating among the homes of those participating. Please call the Kynasts (269-921-3816 for Mary, 269-921-2786 for Bob) if you'd like more information.

Thursday Morning Bible Study
On Thursday, April 25, we continue our study on the psalms. Join us from 9:30-11:00 am for a time of learning and fellowship. New participants are always welcomed.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study
Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study will resume again on April 23. The Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship (something to eat and something to drink). We know everyone is busy so Bible study is a "come as you can" group. All men are invited to join in.

For more information call or text Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or bobkynast@gmail.com or Sid at 312-209-1301 or sidmohn@gmail.com.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast
On Saturday, April 6, 2019 Saron Men's Monthly Devotion and Breakfast group will meet at the Galley Grill on Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville at 9:00 am. The Galley Grill is on the Super 8 Motel property at 4296 Red Arrow Highway just north of the Tyler Honda car dealership. We welcome new participants!

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
April 7th, 6:30 in the upstairs lounge, we are looking into "Young Jane Young", by Gabrielle Zevin. "This is the story of five women and the scandal that binds them together". (Amazon) It is a book well suited to the times we live in. It causes us to examine some long held ideas, perceptions and to see others as human beings with many layers. Please join us for this discussion. Should be a lively one.

We end our season on May 5th with Elizabeth Strout's novel, "Abide With Me". Strout returns to the lovely landscape of northern New England to tell the story of a minister struggling to "regain his calling, his family and his happiness in the wake of profound loss". (Amazon) Strout considers life, love, God, the workings of a church congregation and a community in ways only her compelling writing style can.

Hope you can join us for both discussions. Anyone interested is welcome. Questions? Contact Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"I cannot remember the books I've read anymore than the meals I've eaten; even so, they have made me". (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Women of the ELCA.

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle's April meeting will be providing the Lenten soup supper on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the church dining room.

WOMEN OF SARON AND GUESTS

You are invited to our annual Women's Retreat to be held on Saturday April 27, 2019 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the home of Linda Pater. This day provides us time to get to know each other better and learn more about God's message to us. There is a $10.00 charge to cover expenses for our speaker, and breakfast and lunch. A sign up sheet will be placed in the Narthex in March. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Linda Pater. As always, we are looking forward to this event and hope that you will join us.

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement. Thanks!

Matt Bradley, treasurer

Are you a Thrivent member?

If so, you have an opportunity to help with the funding of a work project, as coordinated through our Outreach or Facilities teams. Please let Janet Oleson or Pastor know if you are a member, have interest or questions.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN

Large cans of fruit, for use at the Soup Kitchen, are always needed. Saron is responsible for preparing and serving a meal on the 4th Thursday of the month. If you would like to volunteer to bake cookies or help serve please contact Kathie Bradley at 269/921-4665.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our blood drive will be at the end of this month on Monday, April 29. There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex at the beginning of the month. The hours have been changed to 3:00 – 7:00 pm so this may allow some people who couldn't make it before to join us. Blood Fact: More than 75 percent of all Americans reaching age 72 will need blood in their lifetimes, 97 percent will have a loved one or friend who will need blood. It can take a little care before and after donating to make sure you feel okay physically - you should feel great otherwise knowing you helped others; you may even help save a life.

CROP WALK NEWS

The 40th annual CROP walk with a them of Eggs, Veggies and a Side of Hope will be held May 19, 2019. Please consider participating as a walker or contributor. See Amy Nelson, Elizabeth Kunkel or Steve Bell for participant packet. CROP walk has raised almost $1.5 million since 1980. Twenty-five percent of proceeds benefit local agencies such as Benton Harbor Street Ministries, Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen, Bread of Heaven Food Pantry, Catholic Community Center, Fairplain Food Bank and Salvation Army.

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

A task force at Saron has been looking at issues of welcome and inclusivity and how to best live into our mission of "joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!" Serving on the task force are Kati and Nick Hooper, Laurel Gacek, Laura Hicks, and Pastor. Contact any of these folks if you would like to know more.

Interfaith Action
SW Michigan Peace & Justice Collaborative

Immigration: Our Fears and Our Faith - April 4th, 6:30 p.m.

Interfaith Action's final immigration forum will focus on fears we bring to the immigration debate and our faith-based responses. Our panel will include Dr. Oliver Glanz, Assistant Professor of Old Testament, Andrews University; Father Leonel Cartagena Franco, St. Anthony Catholic Church of Buchanan; Rev. Jay Fast, Pastor, Harbert Community Church; and Mostafa El Sayed, Imam, Islamic Association of SW Michigan.

The Forum will be held at The Rose Center, 301 Wayne Street (corner with Pleasant) in St Joseph. This will be an exciting conclusion to reflect on how our faith leads us to understand the current debate on immigration.

Interfaith Action of SW Michigan

National Day Of Prayer
"Love One Another" May 2, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
First Congregational Church of St. Joseph
2001 Niles Avenue, St. Joseph, MI
Invited guests: U.S. Representative Fred Upton, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer Music by All God's Children

TINY HOUSES FOR BIG CHANGE

Tiny Houses for Big Change, is an organization started at Saint Augustine's Episcopal Church in Benton Harbor. Its purpose is to help the homeless in southwest Michigan. It began with a group of children at Saint Augustine's who wanted to build a tiny house for a homeless person, and it took off from there. Now they're partnering with Andrews University architecture students and Harbor Habitat, as well as generous donors, to put the plan into action. Through grants and giving, they have raised over $28,000. They won't stop there though. The kids want to keep building tiny houses for homeless people in our community well after the first is built.

We can help. Small "tiny house boxes will be available at Saron soon for you to start collecting your coins and dollars for this venture. Watch and listen for more details. You can also get more information and donate through https://www.gofundme.com/65ha1uo. Interfaith Action is helping with this endeavor.

APRIL'S MISSION MOMENT

Each month we will be featuring a ministry of Saron – either a direct ministry, or one that is ours as a member of the ELCA.

ELCA World Hunger

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. – Matthew 25:35

On the first Sunday of the month we place our gifts of noisy (and not so noisy) offerings into the bucket for ELCA World Hunger. But where does that money go?

ELCA World Hunger addresses hunger from all angles, both domestically and globally. Working through ELCA congregations, global companion churches, the Lutheran World Federation, and other partners like Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, the ELCA reaches more places more effectively than we could ever do alone.

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, ELCA World Hunger helps to meet basic needs and recognize the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. By connecting people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change can be accomplished.

ELCA World Hunger also engages members of the ELCA in education and advocacy to help change the systems that perpetuate poverty. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

The Good Gifts that Saron purchases are part of the ELCA World Hunger program. *For more information, and lots of it, check out https://www.elca.org/hunger*

COMPANION SYNOD NEWS

If you would like to learn more about our companion synod – the Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras – and the situation there, please find information posted on the kiosk.

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP VIDEO

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. Portions of our worship are being recorded for the purpose of sharing with those who are not able to attend worship, particularly those who are home bound. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear on a video, please contact Aaron Becker (at the camera) or Pastor.

Facilities

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED

Please save your used ink cartridges as we receive rebates to be used on office supplies. There is a collection box in the Narthex. Thank you.

Thank you!

Thank you to Eric and Debbie Standen for their work to clean up the courtyard and make it ready for our enjoyment.

A huge thank you to Keith Stevens who designed, made, and installed this portrayal of Jesus on the cross, made out of cardboard and paper. It will hang in our sanctuary through Good Friday.

Council News

Saron's Council Members – 2019

Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – President
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Vice President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Treasurer
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Secretary
+++
Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – Worship
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities
Brandon Burrow – Youth
Troy Burrow – Youth
Don Hafer (269-470-2255) - Support
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Hospitality
Deanna Deaton (429-9086) - Hospitality
Kristen Harper (277-9277) – Learning, Youth
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Fortify and Fly
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor

Attendance Record	
02/24/2019	*82*
03/03/2019	*101*
03/10/2019	*96*
03/17/2019	*80*
03/24/2019	*103*

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

April 2019

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Children's time

Youth Group Fun

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. SCS Classes	**1** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**2**	**3** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Worship	**4** 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**5**	6 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast
7 Worship/Learning Schedule Above 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Discussion Group	**8** Newsletter Articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 6:00 p.m. Support Comm.Meeting	**9**	**10** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Worship	**11** 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**12**	13
14 *Palm Sunday* Worship/Learning Schedule Above	**15** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	**16** 4:00 p.m. Vasa Meeting	**17** 9:30am Golden Hammers	**18** *Maundy Thursday* 12:15 & 7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion	**19** *Good Friday* 12:15 & 7:00 p.m. Worship Adoration of the Cross	20 7:00 p.m. Vigil of Easter with Holy Communion
21 *Easter Sunday* **NO** Learning Classes 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 10:00 am.Egg Hunt for Kids & Crafts	**22** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**23** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**24** 9:30am Golden Hammers	**25** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study	**26**	27 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Annual Women's Retreat at Linda Pater's home
28 Worship/Learning Schedule Above	**29** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**30** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study				

Saron 2019
April Volunteer Schedule

	April 7 ***Fifth Sunday in Lent***		***April 14*** ***Passion/Palm Sunday***		***April 21*** ***Easter Sunday***		***April 28*** ***Second Sunday of Easter***	
	8:30	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***
Assisting minister	*Eric Standen*	*Dennis Lundgren*	*Wendy King*	*Bill Oleson*	*Marilyn Frey*	*Denise Cook*	*Sue Rood*	*Scott Kohs*
Reader/ Comm. Asst.	*Fran Richard*	*Dan Fortenbacher*	*Jim Manore*	*Don Hafer*	*Sally Schmuhl*	*Frieda Williams*	*Susan Harris*	*Laurel Gacek*
Ushers	*Keith Stevens and Steve Bell*	*John Olson & Krin Jurgensen*	*Eric & Deb Standen*	*Dave & Sue Bailey*	*Fran Richards & Elizabeth Kunkel*	*Pat Breyen & Rebecca Sebrechts*	*Keith Stevens & Jim Manore*	*Matt Bradley & Tyler Cook*
Acolyte	*Brandon & Eric Burrow*	*Molly Becker*	*Brooke & Jenna Henderson & Troy Burrow*	*Mia &Alaina Bradley, Meredith Gacek*	*tbd*	*Grant & Meredith Gacek, Mia & Alaina Bradley, Molly Becker*	*Brooke Henderson*	*Grant Gacek*
Nursery 1st	*Mary Alice Brunner*	*Darlene Kiessel*	*Deb Standen*	*Laura Stark*	*Marilyn Lucy*	*tbd*	*Marilyn Frey*	*Judi Huff*
Nursery 2nd	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*	*Emily Gaul*
Bldg. close		*Brad and Marilyn Frey*		*Jerry and Ruth Stelling*		*Dave and Kathie Bradley*		*Dennis & Colleen Lundgren*
Snacks	*Irma Gorman*	*Pat Breyen*		*Lindsay Gaspari*	*Easter*	*Breakfast*		*Kate Kohs*
Flowers	*Alaina Bradley Birthday Elizabeth Gaspari Birthday*		*Irma Gorman Birthday Credo Candle Pat Breyen*		*Easter Flowers*		*Darlene Kiessel's daughter Susan's Birthday*	